

April 14, 2011  
Nemaha Natural Resources District  
Regular Meeting  
Tecumseh, Nebraska

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Chair Beethe called the four hundred thirty-first meeting of the Nemaha Natural Resources District Board of Directors to order at 8:00 p.m. Thursday, April 14, 2011, at the NRD Headquarters in Tecumseh, Nebraska.

<b>DIRECTORS</b>	Charles Bausch	Wayne Goering	William Umland
<b>PRESENT:</b>	Lisa Beethe	Dave Guhde	Bruce Walker
	Rob Bohling	Scott Kudrna	Dan Watermeier
	Charles Duryea	William Niedfeldt	Paul Weber
	Orval Gigstad	Don Siske	Tom White
	Mike Gilson	Duane Sugden	
	Ted Godemann	Steve Sugden	

<b>DIRECTORS</b>	John Albrecht
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Mike Speece

<b>STAFF</b>	Bob Hilske, Manager
<b>PRESENT:</b>	Scott Nelson, Assistant Manager
	Chuck Wingert, Water Resources Manager
	Jane Kuhl, Administrative Assistant

<b>GUESTS</b>	Roger Reichmuth, NRCS, Tecumseh
<b>PRESENT:</b>	

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence was observed. Chair Beethe announced that the Open Meetings Act was posted at the back of the room.

2. **PROOF OF PUBLICATION**

Proof of Publication was presented and is on file.

3. **EXCUSED ABSENCES**

**White moved, seconded by Siske, to approve the excused absences requested by John Albrecht and Mike Speece. Motion carried on consent agenda.**

4. **OPEN FORUMS**

All NRD directors, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

5. **MINUTES**

Corrections were made to the following items in the minutes: Item 1. Directors Present, Item 8.B. Five Rivers RC&D report, and Items 9.A.2. and 9.A.4 roll call votes. **White moved, seconded by Siske, to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion carried on consent agenda.**

6. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

**White moved, seconded by Siske, to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Motion carried on consent agenda.**

7. **STAFF REPORT**

Hilske reviewed his written report and updated the board on current legislation. Nelson reviewed his report.

8. **AGENCY/ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

**A. Natural Resources Conservation Service**

Roger Reichmuth reviewed his written report highlighting the CSP reviews and current CRP sign-up.

**B. Five Rivers RC&D**

Kudrna reported that it appeared the President would be signing the budget resolution that would eliminate funding for the RC&Ds. The Council is considering asking the counties to fund the RC&D on a per capita basis. They would be losing their federal coordinator, but their part-time assistant would remain because she is not federally funded. They are looking at options for relocating their office since this would be a mid-year elimination.

**C. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts**

Gigstad reported they have a board meeting in June where they will vote on the budget, which includes a four percent dues increase. They will be hiring a part-time receptionist in addition to their current staff.

Washington, DC, Trip Report: Umland thanked the board for the opportunity to go on the Washington, DC, trip. He felt there could be some moves to reduce the authorities of the EPA. There are going to be some efforts to increase unity among offices. We also learned we should earmark projects before submitting them. He reviewed some concerns about wetlands and water resources.

**D. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission**

Watermeier stated they will not meet again until June 8 in Sidney, since they have cut their meeting schedule from five meetings a year to four.

9. STANDING COMMITTEES

**A. Programs & Projects Committee**

1. *Request for Environmental Trust Grant Extension:*

**Weber moved, seconded by White, to approve the request for extension for the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund grant to continue the flowmeter cost-share program.** Wingert explained that a one-year extension would allow more time to spend the grant funds, which can now also be used for soil moisture sensors. The request will go before the entire Trust board, so we won't know their decision until their July meeting. **Motion carried.**

**AYE:** Bausch, Beethe, Bohling, Duryea, Gigstad, Gilson, Godemann, Goering, Guhde, Kudrna, Niedfeldt, Siske, D. Sugden, S. Sugden, Umland, Walker, Watermeier, Weber, White

**NOT PRESENT:** Albrecht, Speece

2. *Well Permit Applications:* The following applications for well permits were reviewed by the Committee:

Name	Location	Capacity	Purpose
Upland Farms, LLC	2.25 miles northeast of Sterling	750 gpm	Irrigation
Andrew Wellensiek	1 mile west of Cook	700 gpm	Irrigation
John Beethe	5.5 miles southeast of Crab Orchard	700 gpm	Irrigation

**Weber moved, seconded by White, to approve well permit applications for the following irrigation wells: Upland Farms, LLC, 2.25 miles northeast of Sterling; Andrew Wellensiek, 1 mile west of Cook; John Beethe, 5.5 miles southeast of Crab Orchard.** Depending on the yield, the Wellensiek well may be used in place of or in a series with the well for which a permit was previously issued, since that well did not yield the amount of water desired. **Motion carried.**

**AYE:** Bausch, Beethe, Bohling, Duryea, Gigstad, Gilson, Godemann, Goering, Guhde, Kudrna, Niedfeldt, Siske, D. Sugden, S. Sugden, Umland, Walker, Watermeier, Weber, White

**NOT PRESENT:** Albrecht, Speece

3. *Review Engineering Study to Address Drainage & Erosion Concerns in Syracuse:*

Weber reviewed the plans provided by JEO to address these issues. There was some discussion about what role the NRD might play, but no request has been received from Syracuse at this time. No action.

**B. Operations & Education Committee**

1. *Quotes for Removal & Disposal of Two Bridges on Steamboat Trace:* Quotes received were as follows:

<b>Contractor</b>	<b>Total Estimate</b>
Kuhl Trenching & Exc., Inc., Tecumseh	\$5,300.00
Big River Construction, Nebraska City	\$7,340.00
<i>NRD Cost Estimate: \$5,000.00</i>	

**Kudrna moved, seconded by Siske, to approve the quote of \$5,300.00 submitted by Kuhl Trenching & Excavating, Inc., for removal and disposal of two bridges on the Steamboat Trace.** It was pointed out that the final amount will be based upon actual amounts removed and disposed of at a licensed landfill. **Motion carried.**

**AYE:** Bausch, Beethe, Bohling, Duryea, Gigstad, Gilson, Godemann, Goering, Guhde, Kudrna, Niedfeldt, Siske, D. Sugden, S. Sugden, Umland, Walker, Watermeier, Weber, White

**NOT PRESENT:** Albrecht, Speece

2. *Request from Norris Envirothon Team for State Envirothon:* **Kudrna moved, seconded by Siske, to approve payment of the \$100 registration fee for the Norris Envirothon team to attend the State Envirothon Competition at Scottsbluff on May 7. Motion carried.**

**AYE:** Bausch, Beethe, Bohling, Duryea, Gigstad, Gilson, Godemann, Goering, Guhde, Kudrna, Niedfeldt, Siske, D. Sugden, S. Sugden, Umland, Walker, Watermeier, Weber, White

**NOT PRESENT:** Albrecht, Speece

3. *Discussion on Hiring a Consultant to Assist with Developing a Plan to Address Steamboat Trace Improvements:* Kudrna outlined the process for obtaining proposals from three engineering firms to provide options for addressing maintenance and improvements on the trail and identifying potential funding sources. Nelson added that it will remain to be seen after proposals are received in June whether or not the board feels there would be room in the budget for this work. No action.

**C. Executive Committee**

1. *Policy for Appointment of New Board Members:* The committee reviewed the draft policy and had some suggestions regarding how to vote on new members. Hilske reviewed some areas of the proposed policy that received the most comments. No action was taken, and suggested changes will be incorporated and brought back for board review next month.

2. ***Procedure for Handling Staff Assigned to NRCS Offices in the Event of a Government Shutdown:*** The committee came up with three different scenarios for how to handle these staff members, which are mainly NRD clerks. Discussion centered on whether these employees would be asked to work in the NRD office during a shutdown since they would not be allowed to work in the NRCS offices. No action.
3. ***Procedure for Developing FY2012 District Budget:*** Staff had suggested setting up a budget committee and asked if there was interest from directors in serving on such a committee. Duane Sugden commented that he thought the budget and presentations regarding it had been better and easier to understand over the past four or five years than they had ever been. Hilske explained that this committee would provide input and answer questions regarding the budget but not be asked to actually prepare the budget. Beethe, Kudrna, and White volunteered to serve on the committee.

#### 10. MASTER PLAN

Hilske asked for more input on the action items in the Master Plan as well as on the plan in general. Beethe suggested asking for public input on the plan. Kudrna felt it is the role of the directors to get input from their constituents. There was some discussion about whether a public hearing format would be best or if the plan could simply be made available at the office and on the website for public comment for a period of time. No action.

#### 11. ANNOUNCEMENTS, MAY MEETING DATE/TIME & AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS

Beethe gave a brief update on the mineral mining and aerial studies going on in the Elk Creek area. Duane Sugden commented on the Sterling Urban Special Project that the NRD contributed to and their lack of recognition for the District's role in their project. He asked if staff could contact them to request them to include the NRD in their press releases and advertising.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 12, at 8:00 p.m. with committee meetings prior.

#### 12. CONSENT AGENDA

**Godemann moved, seconded by White, to approve the consent agenda.** Consent agenda items: Excused Absences, Minutes, Treasurer's Report. **Motion carried.**

**AYE:** Bausch, Beethe, Bohling, Duryea, Gigstad, Gilson, Godemann, Goering, Guhde, Kudrna, Niedfeldt, Siske, D. Sugden, S. Sugden, Umland, Walker, Watermeier, Weber, White

**NOT PRESENT:** Albrecht, Speece

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

**White moved, seconded by Siske, to adjourn. Motion carried.**

**AYE:** Bausch, Beethe, Bohling, Duryea, Gigstad, Gilson, Godemann, Goering, Guhde,  
Kudrna, Niedfeldt, Siske, D. Sugden, S. Sugden, Umland, Walker, Watermeier,  
Weber, White

**NOT PRESENT:** Albrecht, Speece

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors will be Thursday, May 12, 2011, at 8:00 p.m. at the NRD headquarters at 62161 Hwy 136 in Tecumseh.

*Approved 5/12/11*

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Secretary, Nemaha Natural Resources District